DOE/EIA-0218(90-33)

Weekly Coal Production

Energy Information Administration

Production for Week Ended:
August 11, 1990

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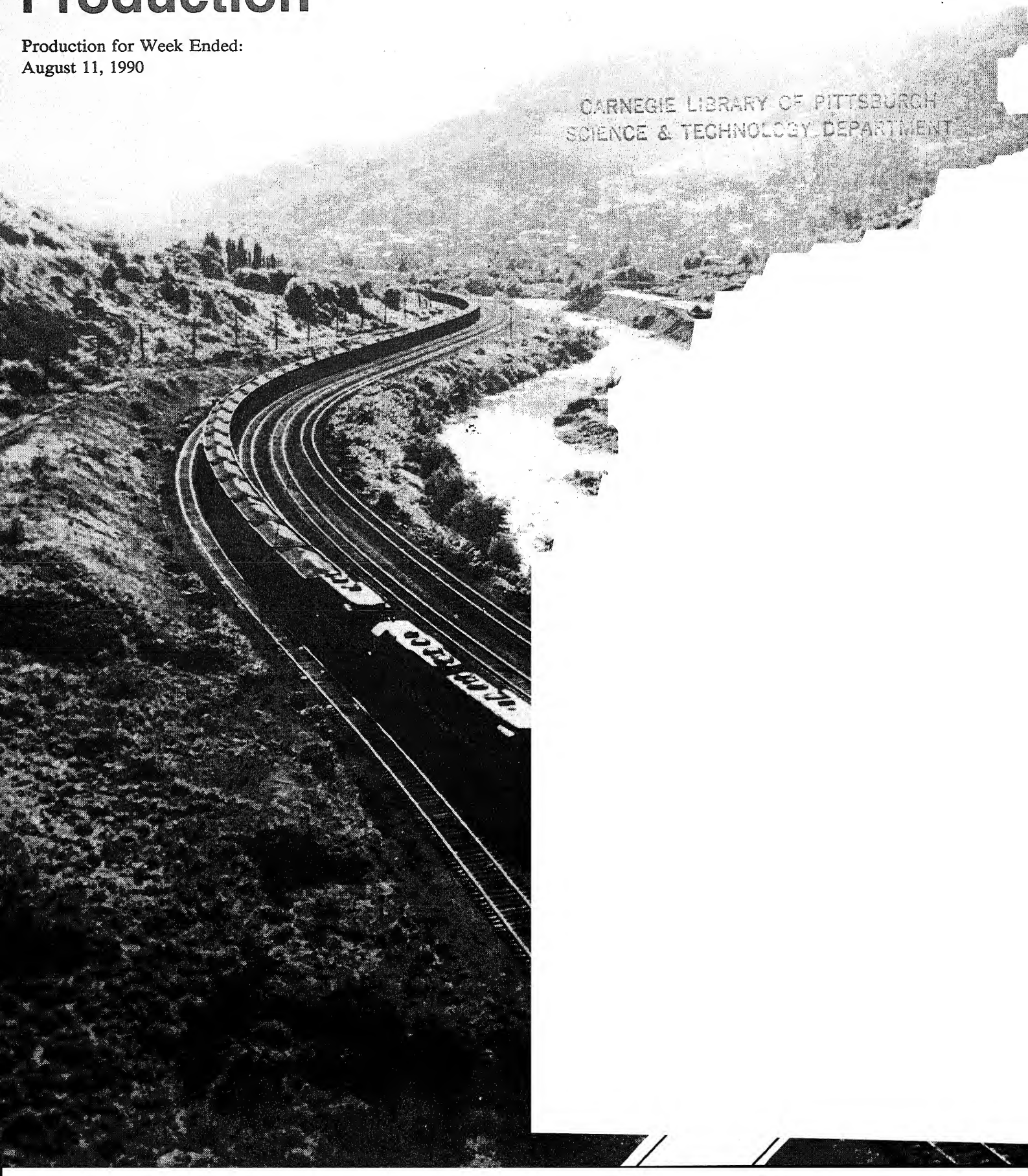


Preface

The *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* provides weekly estimates of U.S. coal production by State. Supplementary data are usually published monthly in two supplements: the Coal Exports and Imports Supplement and the Domestic Market Supplement. The Coal Exports and Imports Supplement contains detailed monthly data on U.S. coal and coke exports and imports. The Domestic Market Supplement contains detailed monthly electric utility coal statistics, by Census Division and State, for generation, consumption, stocks, receipts, sulfur content, prices, and the origin and destination of coal shipments. This supplement also contains summary-level, monthly data for all coal-consuming sectors on a quarterly basis.

Preliminary coal production data are published quarterly, based on production data collected using Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report." The coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent.

Final coal production data are published annually, based on the EIA-7A coal production survey. The revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent.

This publication is prepared by the Coal Division; Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels; Energy Information Administration (EIA) to fulfill its data collection and dissemination responsibilities as specified in the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275) as amended. *Weekly Coal Production* is intended for use by industry, press, State and local governments, and consumers. Other publications that may be of interest are the quarterly *Coal Distribution Report*, the *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Coal Production 1988*, and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

This publication was prepared by Wayne M. Watson and Michelle D. Bowles under the direction of Mary K. Paull and Noel C. Balthasar, Chief, Data Systems Branch. Specific information about the *State Coal Profile: Louisiana* may be obtained from Eugene R. Slatick at 202/254-5384. *Questions on energy statistics should be directed to the National Energy Information Center (NEIC) at 202/586-8800.*

Photo Credit:

Central Louisiana Electric Company, Incorporated
State Coal Profile

Category UC-98

Released for printing August 17, 1990

Summary

U.S. coal production in the week ended August 11, 1990, as estimated by the Energy Information Administration, totaled 20 million short tons, virtually the same as in the previous week, and in the comparable week in 1989. Production East of the Mississippi River totaled 12 million short tons, and production West of the Mississippi River totaled 8 million short tons.

Figure 1. Coal Production

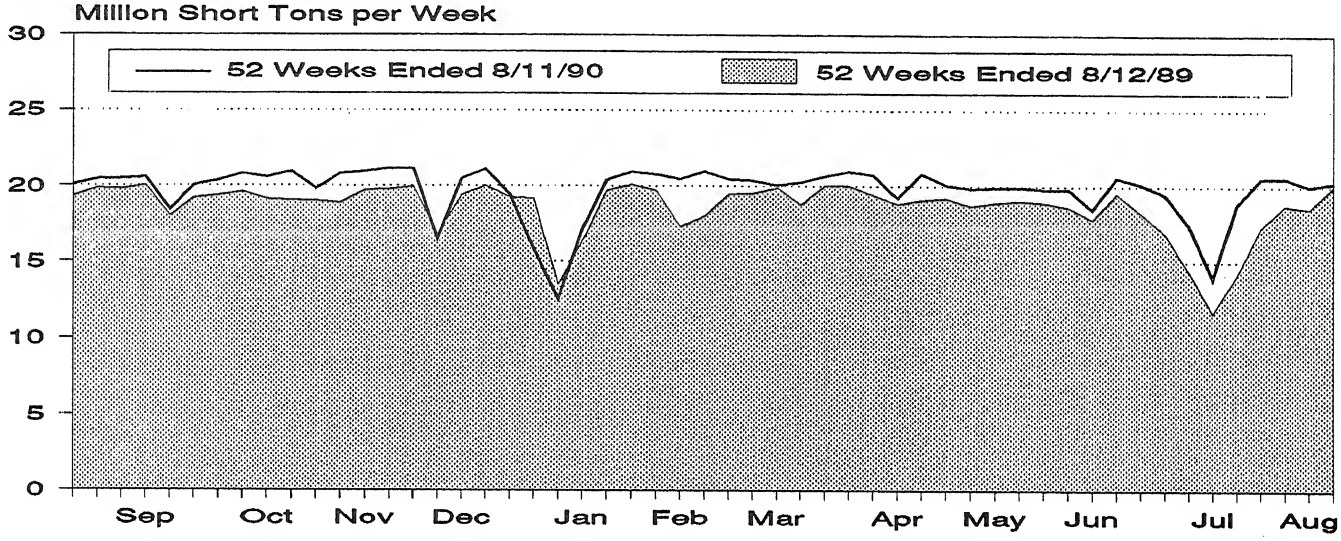


Table 1. Coal Production

Production and Carloadings	Week Ended			52 Weeks Ended		
	08/11/90	08/04/90	08/12/89	08/11/90	08/12/89	Percent Change
Production (Thousand Short Tons)						
Bituminous[1] and Lignite	20,206	19,960	20,004	1,022,752	963,294	6.2
Pennsylvania Anthracite	74	71	70	3,339	3,529	-5.4
U.S. Total	20,279	20,031	20,074	1,026,092	966,823	6.1
Railroad Cars Loaded	130,373	128,787	130,234	6,626,859	6,356,790	

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

Table 2. Coal Production by State
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	Week Ended 08/11/90	08/04/90	08/12/89
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite			
East of the Mississippi	11,958	11,803	11,958
Alabama	509	482	526
Illinois	1,145	1,120	1,147
Indiana	924	815	756
Kentucky	3,096	3,175	3,426
Kentucky, Eastern	2,307	2,342	2,468
Kentucky, Western	788	833	958
Maryland	56	57	52
Ohio	668	665	676
Pennsylvania Bituminous	1,390	1,286	1,347
Tennessee	131	128	131
Virginia	915	901	1,040
West Virginia	3,125	3,174	2,857
West of the Mississippi	8,248	8,157	8,046
Alaska	28	28	25
Arizona	247	244	266
Arkansas	3	3	2
Colorado	412	389	337
Iowa	7	7	8
Kansas	22	22	29
Louisiana	65	51	74
Missouri	61	60	61
Montana	736	737	772
New Mexico	549	516	494
North Dakota	607	607	615
Oklahoma	40	39	40
Texas	1,235	1,220	1,220
Utah	476	453	422
Washington	99	98	91
Wyoming	3,662	3,684	3,590
Bituminous[1] and Lignite Total	20,206	19,960	20,004
Pennsylvania Anthracite	74	71	70
U.S. Total	20,279	20,031	20,074

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

State Coal Profile: Louisiana

Total Area of State:

48,523 square miles

Area Underlain by Coal:

1,360 square miles

Demonstrated Reserve Base of Coal:
(January 1, 1989)

495 million short tons
(<1 percent of U.S. total)

First Year of Documented Coal Production:

1985 (207,000 short tons)

Peak Year of Coal Production:

1989 (3 million short tons)

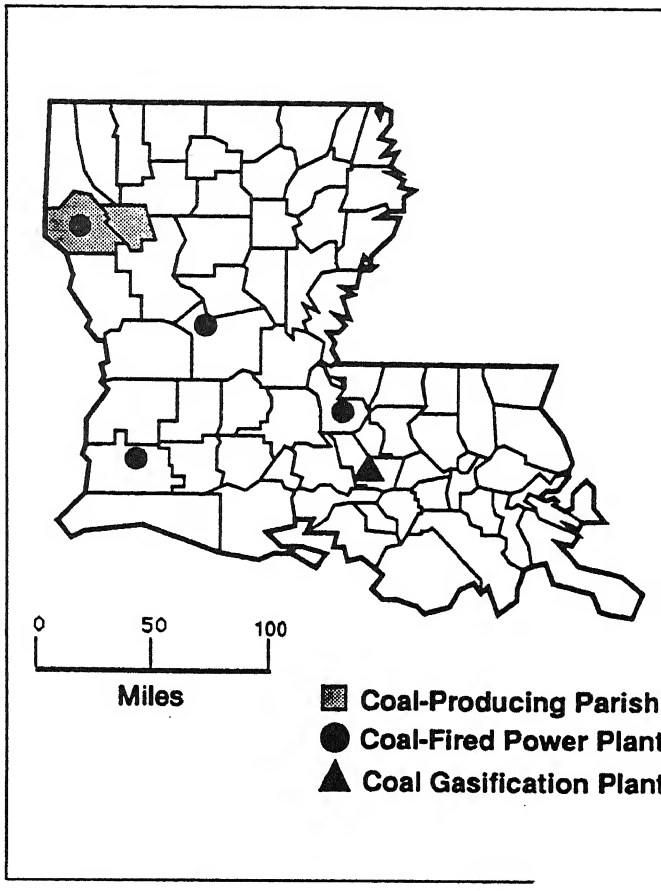
1989 Coal Production:

3 million short tons
(<1 percent of U.S. total)

1989 Coal Consumption:

12 million short tons
(1 percent of U.S. total)

1989 Coal Exports through New Orleans:
11 million short tons
(11 percent of U.S. total)



	Number
Number of Mines (1988)	
Underground	
Surface	
Number of Miners (1988)	
Underground	
Surface	
Average Quality of Utility Coal Receipts (198	
Heat Content (million Btu per short ton)	
Sulfur Content (percent by weight)	
Ash Content (percent by weight)	

Coal is a relatively new source of energy in Louisiana. Large amounts of coal from other States were first consumed in Louisiana in the early 1980's to generate electricity. Production and consumption of Louisiana's coal, all lignite, began in the mid-1980's. Although the output of lignite has risen to about 3 million short tons, its role in Louisiana's economy is greatly overshadowed by the large amounts of natural gas and crude oil produced in the State.

Lignite deposits of commercial importance occur in the northwestern part of Louisiana. Lignite was found in that area as early as 1812, nearly a century before petroleum was discovered in the State. In the early 1800's, small amounts of lignite dug from outcrops were used locally as fuel for blacksmithing and domestic heating. Around the turn of the century, lignite was used to heat a school near Mansfield, Louisiana. It was also tested as a locomotive fuel, but was found unsuitable. Attempts to mine lignite underground were short-lived, due not only to a lack of markets but also to the difficulty of mining under strata that were so weak they had to be supported with extensive timbering. Interest in lignite faded in the early 1900's with the development of the State's large oil and gas fields.

Interest in Louisiana's lignite was renewed during World War II as part of an assessment of the Nation's mineral resources. The lignite could not compete as a fuel, but it had potential as raw material for making certain chemicals, dyes, fertilizers, and livestock feeds. A large amount of such products had been imported from Europe, particularly Germany. However, Louisiana's lignite was never used during the war.

In the 1950's and 1960's, lignite was recognized as a potential fuel for generating electricity in the State, and large reserves were delineated in the Dolet Hills area, near Mansfield, De Soto Parish. At the time, however, lignite was not cost-competitive. The economics changed in the late 1970's as pricing and legislation limited the use of natural gas as a power plant fuel. As a result, when the Central Louisiana Electric Company, Incorporated, and the Southwestern Electric Power Company, evaluated their options to meet a growing demand for electricity for their customers, they jointly agreed that a mine-mouth power plant fueled with lignite would be the most economical choice. The site selected for both a surface mine and a power plant was Dolet Hills.

In 1985, the mine began supplying lignite to the power plant's stockpile by use of a 7-1/2-mile-long conveyor. The following year, the power plant began commercial operations with a generating capability of 640 megawatts. In late 1989, a second surface mine was opened in nearby Red River Parish to provide an additional source of lignite, delivered by truck to the power plant. Miner productivity in 1988 was high, averaging 16 short tons per hour. In general, the lignite beds at the mines average about 6 feet in thickness. The lignite has a heat value averaging 14 million Btu per short ton and a sulfur content of 0.5 percent, by weight.

In 1989, the lignite produced in Louisiana represented about one-fourth of the 12 million short tons of coal consumed in the State. Wyoming was by far the principal source of the coal consumed in Louisiana, nearly all used to generate electricity.

The use of coal to generate electricity is a recent development in Louisiana, where natural gas has long been the dominant fuel used at power plants. Coal was first used as a utility fuel in the State in 1981, when two coal-fired generating units with a total summer capability of 1,080 megawatts began operations at the Big Cajun 2 plant of the Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Incorporated, in Pointe Coupee Parish. The plant's coal-fired generating capability has since been raised to 1,620 megawatts, making it the largest of the four coal-fired plants in Louisiana.

At the beginning of 1989, the coal-fired electricity generating capability in Louisiana was 3,333 megawatts, which accounted for about 20 percent of the total generating capability in the State and ranked second in importance to natural gas. In 1989, the electricity derived from coal amounted to 18,081 gigawatthours, accounting for about one-third of the total electricity generated in the State.

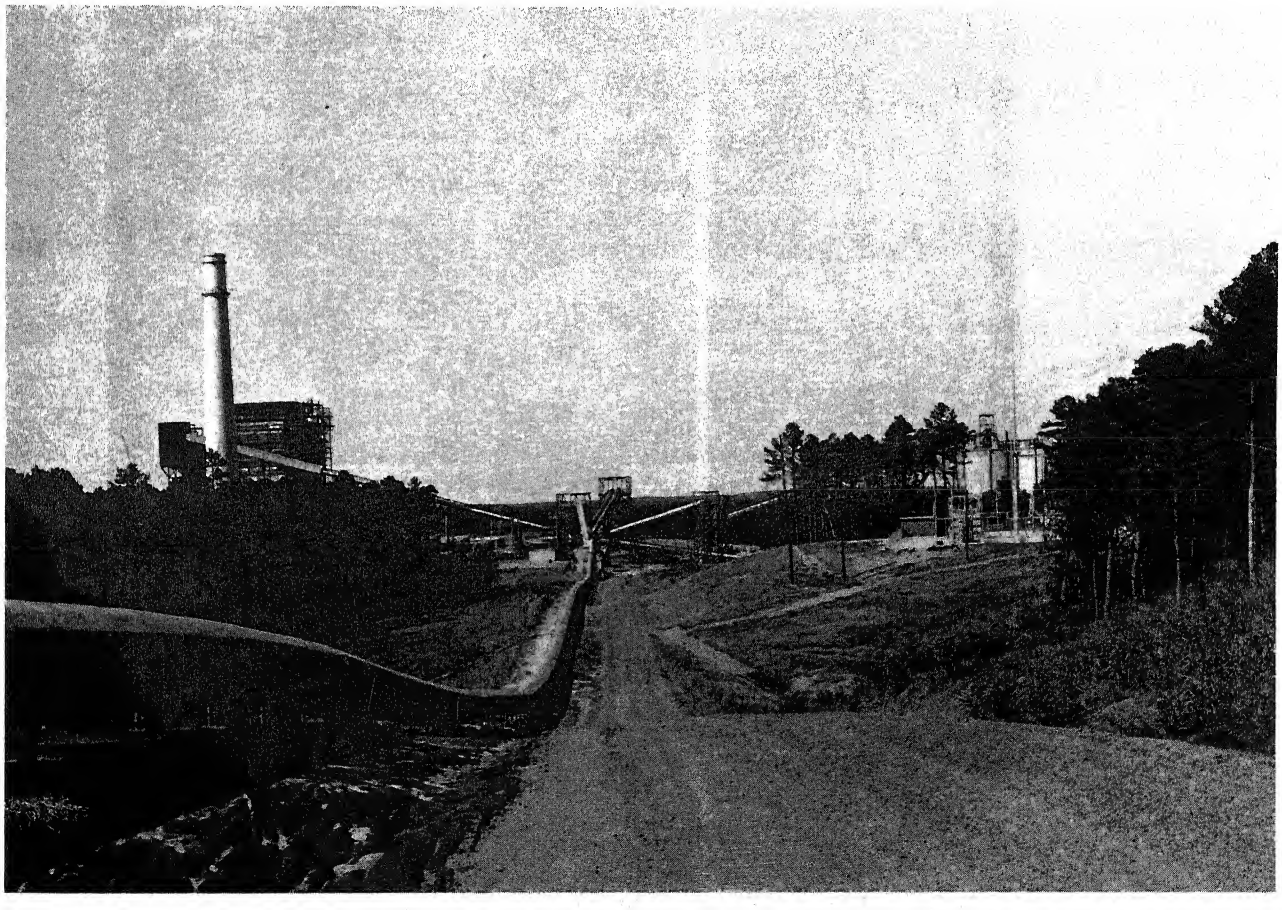
The industrial use of coal in Louisiana, totaling less than 1 million short tons annually, is largely centered at a coal gasification plant at Plaquemine. The plant, which was placed in service in 1987, is one of only three coal gasification plants currently in commercial use in the United States. It is operated by Louisiana Gasification Technology, Incorporated, to supply electricity and superheated steam to an adjacent chemical complex of the Dow Chemical Company. The plant has about 160 megawatts of electricity generating capability using combined-cycle technology. Gas from the coal gasifier fuels a gas turbine generator, and waste heat from the gasifier produces steam for a steam turbine generator.

Although none of the coal produced in Louisiana is exported, large amounts of coal from other States are exported through the New Orleans Customs District, which comprises several terminals on the Mississippi River. In recent years, some shipping channels in the river have been deepened to accommodate large colliers. In 1989, nearly 11 million short tons of coal were exported through the New Orleans Customs District. This represented about 11 percent of the

total U.S. coal exported that year, and ranked New Orleans as the Nation's third-largest coal-exporting district, following Norfolk, Virginia, and Cleveland, Ohio. Small amounts of coal for power plants in other States have also been imported through New Orleans.

Lignite production in Louisiana is projected to total about 3 million short tons per year through 1991, all for the Dolet Hills power plant. Other lignite deposits in the State are potential fuel sources for future power plants. The lignite also has potential as a source of synthetic fuels and as feedstock for existing chemical plants along the Gulf Coast.

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Coal Production* (various issues); *Quarterly Coal Report* (various issues); *Coal Distribution January-December 1989* (April 1990); *Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Utility Plants 1989* (July 1990); *Inventory of Power Plants in the United States 1988* (August 1989); *Electric Power Annual* (various issues); *Electric Power Monthly, December 1989* (March 1990); D. Pope Meagher and L.C. Aycock, "Louisiana Lignite," *Geological Pamphlet No. 3,* Louisiana Geological Survey (1942); David Ray Williamson, "Lignite of Northwest Louisiana and the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine," *Gulf Coast Lignite Geology,* published by Environmental and Coal Associates, Reston, VA (May 1987); and *Dolet Hills,* published by Central Louisiana Electric Company, Incorporated, and Southwestern Electric Power Company.



The Dolet Hills power plant, the only generating facility in Louisiana fueled with lignite, is linked by a conveyor system to a lignite mine 7-1/2 miles away.

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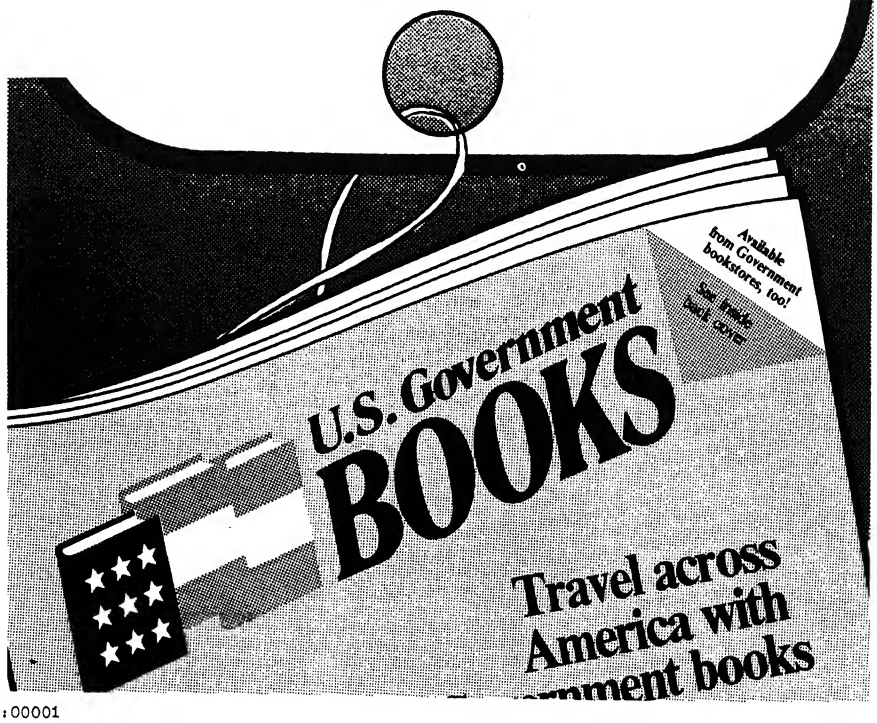

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